

HCS HB 226 -- WILDLIFE CODE VIOLATIONS

SPONSOR: Townley (Holand)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 14 to 5.

In addition to the existing class A misdemeanor charge, this substitute requires anyone convicted of illegally taking or possessing an antlered deer with the intent to sell to remit to the Conservation Commission an amount ranging from \$1,500 to \$7,500, depending on the deer's Boone & Crockett score. Resident landowners on their own property and individuals guilty of minor tagging or checking violations are exempt. The commission may allocate up to 25% of the funds for grants that promote anti-poaching activities.

The substitute also requires courts to notify the commission if anyone fails to appear at a hearing or pay a fine for taking wildlife illegally. The commission may consider this information in permit suspension, revocation, or denial actions.

FISCAL NOTE: Not available at time of printing.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will help reduce the profitability of illegally trafficking in trophy deer antlers.

Testifying for the bill were Representatives Holand and Hampton; Department of Conservation; and Conservation Federation of Missouri.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Terry Finger, Senior Legislative Analyst